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19 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Research)

VIA: Acting Chief, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT: United States Capability to Process
Photography from CORONA and the U-2

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for approval in paragraph 7.

2. All duplicates of U-2 and CORONA photography have been processed at Eastman Kodak since the inception of those programs except for: (a) Most Middle East missions, which were initially processed at Adana and Wiesbaden; (b) The initial mission over Tyura Tam; (c) Indonesia (processed in the Philippines); [redacted] and North Vietnam (1960-1961), processed at [redacted]. In those instances, some additional duplication was later required by Eastman Kodak.

3. The existence of the Eastman Kodak processing facility has stemmed from the fact that professional processing was necessary in view of the advanced state of the art involved in this photography, both U-2 and CORONA, to maximize the amount of information obtainable from the photography for strategic intelligence purposes.

4. As the community gained experience in the use of both U-2 and CORONA photography in the course of those programs and as security permitted more extensive participation at the various centers among the military [redacted] the number [redacted] in the case of U-2 photography, and from [redacted] copies to [redacted] in the case of CORONA photography (for current duplication requirements see Tab A). In view of the fact that CORONA emerged at the time when we were in the low period of post-1 May 1960, there was never any competition for the Eastman Kodak facility, at

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least not in any serious or critical way. With the speedup of CORONA activities and with the concurrent activities in Cuba, North Vietnam, and China, the problem of the workload at Eastman Kodak now faces us. Single management of the processing of duplicates in these various programs has had certain benefits: (a) Prompt access by the Community to meet their various needs in a defined priority; (b) Quality and standardized reproduction, titling, and handling with relatively little complaint and with maximum security. Meanwhile, it is only fair to say that both at Adana (now disestablished) and at [REDACTED] theater processing has now reached reasonably high quality. The same cannot be said for the USAFE processing center at Wiesbaden. In the case of [REDACTED] there still remain titling problems that should be solved.

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5. The USAF facility at Westover has been modernized under the supervision of Eastman Kodak and is geared to handle the products of SAMOS when available. [REDACTED] photography was processed at March Field in California. No comparison has been made of the processing at March Field with that at Eastman Kodak; however, National Photographic Interpretation Center could make such a comparison in about a day if requested. Recently the Navy has shown interest in improving its processing facility at Suitland so that it could in an emergency process such materials as those on Cuba. 25X1A2g

6. Recently, complaints by SAC with regard to KEYHOLE processing have provoked a Community investigation into what is necessary to improve that material. One result of this investigation, which should take about a month, may show that the price of maximum quality may be longer time in processing as well as certain changes or even new equipment at Eastman.

7. Recommendation: That the DDR direct the Acting Chief, DPD to: (a) Investigate with USAF (SAC) for the emergency utilization of March Field or Westover and with the Navy for Suitland for processing of U-2 materials; (b) Reexamine the long-term plans for the maintenance of the Eastman facility as an advanced quality

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film processing center for U.S. exotic reconnaissance film taking into account the needs for adequate plant and personnel, modernized equipment, replacement of old gear, and the proper relationship between USAF ZI and USAF theater processing centers; and (c) Submit a report on the results of the foregoing to include procedures for the use of the USAF facilities under the continued central management of Development Projects Division.

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James Q. Reber
Chief

Special Requirements Staff, DPD/DDP

Attachment:
Tab A

CONCUR:

The recommendation contained
in paragraph 7 is approved:

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C/DB/DPD

7/10/1962
Date

Enclosed in by DD/R - Swberli 9 Apr 62
Signed Swberli for
Deputy Director
(Research)

Date

[Signature]
AC/DPD

MAR 1962
Date

C/SRS/DPD/DDP:JQReberbs

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This document contains information
referring to project CORONA

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